



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIE M. CARPINO**  
THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
Christie.Carpino@housegop.ct.gov

**HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR**

**MEMBER**  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

### ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING February 24, 2022

#### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5116: AN ACT REQUIRING THE CREATION OF UTILITY COMPANY TREE-PLANTING FUNDS.

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Needleman and Representative Arconti; Ranking Members Senator Formica and Representative Ferraro; and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee. Thank you for raising HB-5116: *An Act Requiring the Creation of Utility Company Tree-Planting Funds*.

***"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,  
Nothing is going to get better.  
It's not."  
Dr. Suess, The Lorax***

Thank you for considering my proposal and raising it as House Bill 5116. It's really a simple, pro-environment, pro public health, common sense proposal that will improve Connecticut for residents and visitors alike.

Smart vegetation management is critical to reliable electric distribution. The destructive storms of late have proven that in Connecticut. However, we must not overlook the impact trees have on our environment. Air quality is important to public health. The pandemic reinforced the importance of open space to our mental health and wellbeing. Sometimes energy providers need to prune and remove trees to protect infrastructure. But we need to replenish what has been taken.

We can start to rectify the environmental impact vegetation management has had on our neighborhoods. This proposal is to create a fund, at no expense to ratepayers, to replace trees in the very community from which they were removed. Municipalities would have the ability to help determine where the replanting of trees could be most beneficial. Wouldn't it be nice to see a community watch something grow?

I appreciate your consideration for this proposal and ask for your support.